

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes of June 3, 1997 Meeting**

Present: Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner  
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor  
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, City of Hancock

National Park Service -

Linda Witkowski, Acting KNHP Superintendent  
Josef Balachowski, Historical Architect  
Edward Yarbrough, Research Historian  
Lynn Bjorkman, Community Planner  
Al Hutchings, Associate Field Director

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

Absent: Commissioner -

Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Office

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, June 3, 1997, in Calumet, Michigan at Park Headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the February 3, 1997 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Clarence Dwyer and seconded by Mary Tuisku, the minutes were approved with no additions or corrections.

Superintendent's Report

Acting superintendent, Linda Witkowski, reported that there are sufficient funds to pay salaries of KNHP staff through FY 1997 which ends September 30, 1997, but it doesn't appear that there will be any surplus funds. The park has been successful in getting Challenge Cost Share grants and the funding will be used to help some of the partners such as Porcupine Mountains State Park and Calumet Township. There are no plans to hire summer seasonal park rangers this year, but the current park staff has a fairly ambitious interpretive program for the summer.

Witkowski distributed copies of the project report generated by the Denver Service Center on the status of the General Management Plan. The report outlines the milestones met and gives a projected completion schedule of the GMP. Witkowski mentioned that all comments submitted by the public during the 60 day public review of the GMP must be addressed by the National Park Service in order to meet all compliance requirements. When Clarence Dwyer asked what the balance of \$39,458 listed in the budget summary of the project report will be used for, Witkowski said it is for printing costs of the GMP document.

Witkowski said she would like to clarify the difference between the two terms "Cooperating Sites" and "Cooperative Agreements." Cooperative agreements are legal contractual documents which the park enters

into with any number of entities. The criteria is that there has to be substantial federal involvement in the project and also the project has to be for the general good of the public. It is a legal arrangement and a way to provide money to people. With "cooperating sites", the sites are partners with the park but on an informal arrangement. Those who choose to be cooperating sites with the park, however, tell a very important park story that the park service cannot yet tell or may never be able to tell.

#### Historical Architect's Report

Josef Balachowski reported that he has been working with John Sullivan, Duane Thayer, Jim Vivian Sr., Jim Vivian Jr., and Larry Lankton to identify priorities for stabilization of buildings at the Mine Hoist. Based on their findings, they have submitted to the National Park Foundation a grant for \$18,000 to repair the concrete at the No. 2 shaft house and a second grant for \$20,000 to disassemble the blacksmith shop roof. The roof material would be stored for future reuse should the roof be re-erected. Removing the roof material would stabilize the walls of the structure and improve the appearance of the site.

Balachowski said he is working with John Sullivan, Reverend Robert Langseth, and Paul Lehto to establish priorities to rehabilitate St. Anne's now that there is a \$100,000 grant for that purpose.

Balachowski said he received a schematic design from retired architect, John Haro, who attended the last Advisory Commission meeting and volunteered his services to explore adaptive reuses of the Quincy Smelter. Part of Mr. Haro's plan proposes that Isle Royale Offices relocate to the smelter site.

Balachowski said he will be conducting a workshop with 12 MTU Summer Institute students on adaptive reuses of the smelter as well.

#### Research Historian's Report

Edward Yarbrough distributed copies of the KNHP summer '97 schedule which lists a series of evenings talks to be given throughout the summer by park staff as well as guest speakers.

Yarbrough said that the walking tour signs are complete and have recently been installed by Paul Lehto and a crew of helpers. He said that Josef Balachowski was very instrumental in the design and editing of the walking tour signs and added that Balachowski wrote a grant recently to obtain funding to improve the walking tour pathway in order to meet American With Disabilities Act standards.

Yarbrough's historic resource document is currently being reviewed and edited by several people. That document along with the geological history of the Keweenaw Peninsula document and the ethnoreligious architecture of the Keweenaw Peninsula document should be ready for publication by the end of this fiscal year.

Yarbrough conducted his first walking tour to 45 attendees from the Society for Industrial Archeology conference sponsored by MTU held recently and will be conducting the same tour during the Mining History Association conference to be held June 5-8, 1997.

#### Community Planner's Report

Lynn Bjorkman said she is continuing to work on the development of the historic district ordinances for Calumet Township and the Village of Calumet. She said the second annual Preservation Day was held May 17. Ed Yarbrough and Josef Balachowski offered information on rehabilitation to area residents during Preservation Day and Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives brought materials to assist people in researching their own properties. To increase attendance at future Preservation Day celebrations, Bjorkman noted that the park staff is thinking that they might combine their Preservation Day celebration with a home show where

people are already congregated.

In other activities, Bjorkman said she has made presentations to the Friends of the Library, the SIA conference held recently, and will be speaking at the Mining History Association meeting as well.

Bjorkman said she received the final report from the University of Wisconsin students which focuses on the landscapes and housing in the Calumet unit of the park and a copy of it will be given to the MTU Archives. She will also continue the survey of mining company housing properties. This will complete the survey she began which covers properties in the Village of Calumet, Laurium and the Industrial Core in the first phase of the survey.

Bjorkman distributed a draft copy of the type of database she hopes to develop in order to collect information on federal, state, local, and private investments that have been made in the area and that have had a direct or indirect impact on the development of the park. She also distributed a draft copy of the cover letter to be included with a questionnaire designed to collect the investment data which will be sent to local public and private sector partners, local government units, and non-profit organizations. Bjorkman also thanked John Garbor and Steve Albee for their assistance in helping with this project.

#### Committee Reports

Paul Lehto suggested that the Finance and Park Operations Committee schedule a meeting sometime in July with the new park superintendent. Burt Boyum said he would set up a meeting.

Lehto asked if the Preservation Planning Committee had met. Larry Lankton said they had not, but would be getting together to discuss Isle Royale National Historic Association's proposal made at the last Advisory Commission meeting that KNHP affiliate itself with the group.

#### Reports and Comments from Commissioners

Mary Tuisku reported on activities in the City of Hancock saying that construction on the new fire station on Santori's Corner has begun. Construction on the waterfront condominiums is slated to begin soon, also. Construction on the hospital and school will probably not begin until next year. Work on streetscaping is scheduled to be done this summer and federal and state permits have been acquired to work on dockage and walkways on the waterfront.

Clarence Dwyer asked Witkowski if KNHP is in competition with Isle Royale National Park for funding from Congress. Witkowski said it is not. Congress looks at each park and bases its funding decisions on individual needs. Dwyer asked if being in such close proximity to Isle Royale is bad for KNHP. Witkowski said on the contrary, the two parks help and compliment each other and can share resources.

Paul Lehto reported on Calumet Township, saying that a \$660 mini-grant was awarded to the township from the Michigan Council for the Arts which will go towards some functions during the Calumet all-school reunion to be held in July. Windows for the Captain's Office are close to being installed. Preparations are being made to move the patterns from the pattern shop. Contracts are signed for the use of the old state police post by the township. The Swedetown Ponds fishing pier project should begin soon. The Swedetown Trails purchase is moving along and includes the property around the railroad depot. The township is investigating ways to secure the depot and has ordered an appraisal of the building.

Larry Lankton reported on the recent Society for Industrial Archeology annual meeting hosted by MTU; he reported it was very successful with 275 people in attendance. The Mining History Association is holding its annual meeting in Houghton June 3-5. Both of these conferences should generate good publicity for the

Keweenaw area and the park.

Lankton said he is sitting on the Quincy Mine Hoist Association Building and Grounds Committee which is looking at what can be done to preserve and protect buildings at the Quincy unit.

He also met with architect, John Haro, to discuss adaptive reuses of the Quincy Smelter.

Lankton said he will offer extra credit to some of his MTU students in his summer school Copper Country class to help clean up the pattern shop and offered similar student help to QMHA if they are in need of it. He explained that this help would involve concentrated labor for a short period of time by the students.

Lankton's book, *Beyond the Boundaries: Life and Landscape at the Lake Superior Copper Mines 1840-1875*, has now been published. It is a social history of settling the frontier and focuses on the life styles of the settlers.

Burt Boyum asked for clarification of the designation of Priority #1 given to National Historic Landmarks which had been discussed at the last Advisory Commission meeting. Witkowski explained that a priority #1 designation is given to a landmark when its historic integrity is seriously damaged or imminently threatened with such damage. She added that both the Calumet unit and the Quincy unit as a whole have been given a Priority #1 designation status.

Burt Boyum reported that at the Quincy Mine Hoist Association board meeting held in May architect John Haro presented his proposal regarding adaptive reuses of the Quincy Smelter. Boyum said he feels Mr. Haro has a lot of imagination and bold thinking which is just what is needed when you have something as grim as the Smelter is right now. He added that QMHA is very interested in working with Mr. Haro.

The tramway is now open and operating, according to Boyum. Visitors can ride the tram to and from the mine entrance or take the mine tour in addition to riding the tram. Cost to build the tram was \$600,000 according to Boyum. He added that Jim Vivian Sr. has been the "spark plug" of the capital fund drive to raise \$200,000. As of now, \$157,000 has been raised with most of this money coming from the Keweenaw area.

On many occasions, Boyum said he has heard Larry Lankton refer to the Quincy area as one of the most outstanding mine landscapes on the Keweenaw. The QMHA Building and Grounds Committee is looking at ways to preserve and maintain that look.

Jim Vivian said he would like to add that QMHA has signed a purchase option for the Pay Office and peripheral lands. Portage Hospital is negotiating for some land along US41 in the Quincy area but indicated that a covenant will be in the deed that no commercial development in this area will be allowed.

Boyum also said he wanted everyone to be aware of how using the word "industrial" core could be detrimental when referring to certain areas connected with the park. He went on to explain that because of this connotation, the tax assessor placed the No. 2 shaft house at Quincy on the tax rolls. Lankton suggested changing "industrial" core to "historic" core when referring to these areas.

#### Legislative Staff Representatives

Paul Lehto introduced staff members Rosemary Wellington from Senator Carl Levin's office and Amy Wisti from Congressman Bart Stupak's office who attended today's Advisory Commission meeting.

#### Associate Field Director

Al Hutchings reported on the Advisory Commission status saying that there has been no formal action, yet, by

the Department of Interior which would allow the Advisory Commission to carry out its operating function.

Hutchings said he would like comment on Clarence Dwyer's concerns about park budgets. He said that all parks are given a base budget with a 1% or 2% increase each year. Once in awhile there is what is called a "special emphasis" program where Congress will select a small number of parks to receive extra funding above and beyond base funding for a specific purpose. In general, all parks are treated the same and funding is based on their needs. Hutchings said that he feels once KNHP has its GMP in place, and after some historic structure reports are completed, Keweenaw will be able to compete for special line item construction money for rehabilitation of buildings. He added that small projects do well under this system and that by "small" this means 3 million dollars or less.

Hutchings said that he feels the revisions that have been made in the General Management Plan are a tremendous improvement. The GMP now stresses optimism and desired future conditions rather than deterioration and hazardous substances. He said a special thanks is due to Linda Witkowski, Doug Barnard and the park staff for helping the Denver Service Center implement the revisions to the GMP. Hutchings also thanked Witkowski on behalf of the regional office for the excellent job she has done for the last seven months as acting superintendent.

#### Comments and Questions from Guests

Doug Barnard, superintendent of Isle Royale, spoke of his role in connection with KNHP. He praised the newly appointed KNHP superintendent, Frank Fiala, saying he knows that Fiala will bring much enthusiasm to the job. Barnard said he looks at his relationship with Fiala as a mentoring relationship. Fiala will be running KNHP and the staff will be reporting to him. Barnard said he feels that KNHP will benefit greatly from its connection with Isle Royal.

Barnard said he, too, would like to thank Witkowski for the great job she has done the last 7 months working at both Isle Royale and KNHP.

Erik Nordberg of the MTU Archives, and organizer of the Mining History Association annual conference to be held June 5-8, 1997 in Houghton, said he expects 75 participants. There will be 26 papers presented at the conference, all on mining, and more than 1/3 of the papers are on the Copper Country.

Nordberg also expressed his concern and anger over a paper that was presented at the recent Society for Industrial Archeology conference. He said it was a negative paper on KNHP presented by a graduate student at MTU. Nordberg added that he wanted the commissioners to be aware of this person's attitude.

Steve Albee said he wanted to notify the commissioners that a Public Action Council has been formed made up of elected citizenry. This community based organization will deal with issues regarding hazardous wastes.

Albee said the School of Forestry at Michigan Tech has recently received funding from the Ford family which will be used toward addressing preservation issues at Alberta and the sawmill. He said an advisory committee has been formed, of which he is a member, to offer advice on how this initial grant will be used toward preservation and continued maintenance of Alberta and the sawmill. Albee suggested that the Advisory Commission make contact with the committee so that both groups are informed of each others activities.

Jim Vivian requested the help of the KNHP staff to assist QMHA to implement a walking tour at the Quincy Site. A brochure for the walking tour has been produced and published, but there is no signage.

Sue Cone of Calumet spoke of her concern regarding the proposed suggestion Isle Royale move its office to

the Quincy Smelter which John Haro had suggested in his proposal for adaptive reuses of the smelter. Doug Barnard said that, in all practicality, this couldn't happen because Isle Royale National Park has so much invested in its present office site in Houghton.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held August 19, 1997, 8:30 a.m. at Park Headquarters Conference Room, 100 Red Jacket Road, Calumet, MI.